

winter's snow there is a thick crust on the ground, and when the spring rains come the water lies on the top of the ground till it evaporates or soaks, and the young plant gets puny and yellow for want of nourishment, but after it has been top dressed and harrowed it will begin immediately to stand out a strong healthy plant, of a rich dark green color. The rain and the night dews go regularly into the ground, and the sun and air can penetrate and nourish the young plant, and it will flourish and grow more than any person can believe. Salt and ashes are a great preventative against the fly or weevil, besides affording nourishment. I have been in the habit of using it for many years and can recommend it with confidence.

Yours very respectfully,
ROBT. BROUGH.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

HINTS ON GARDENING.

[As in our last number we offered a reward for the best communication, we hoped to bring out the abilities of some of our farmers on subjects of importance. But they appear to be too busy with their spring work to write much now. We insert the following as it may be useful to some and it may induce others to write on subjects of interest. We thank our correspondent for his attempt.—Ed.]

The garden when well attended to, is the most profitable part of the farm, and it is surprising that many well-to-do, and otherwise careful farmers, should neglect it. Every one who cultivates any land at all should fence off enough ground for a garden, to supply the house with vegetables, but no more than can be kept clean, for there are too many gardens now that are but patches of weeds. A warm dry and sheltered position should be chosen, and if not rich enough it should be made so, with well rotted manure, which should be well mixed with the soil. A wet cold or shaded place is unfit for a garden. Before the seed is sown, the ground should be well pulverized, and a fine even seed bed made. Onions, peas, beets, carrots and other hardy vegetables may be sown as soon as the ground is sufficiently warm. Corn, beans, cucumbers, melons, cabbage, tomatoes and so forth, as soon as there is no more danger from frost. As soon as the weeds begin to show themselves, or the ground gets hard use the hoe. Weeds are tender at first, but when they get well rooted they are much harder to kill, and you are in more danger of injuring the young plants. Currants, gooseberries, strawberries, are well worthy of attention, and amply repay the trouble bestowed on them. Currants and gooseberries may be raised from slips or layers planted in a bed the first year, and then set in rows five or six feet apart, and kept clear from weeds. A good coat of chip manure on the surface will help keep down the grass. Strawberries are raised from runners which should be set out in a well prepared bed, in rows, one and two feet apart, and one

foot in the row. September is the proper time for setting out the bed. A coat of stable manure should be laid on in the Fall and dug in in the Spring. Then, to combine pleasure with profit, do not forget the flower garden; for a neat bed of flowers are an ornament to the homestead, and an index of the taste, and thrift of the family.

W. C.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

THE MANURE HEAP.

Every farmer, as well as others who have to obtain a livelihood in agricultural pursuits should always keep in mind that "labor is the root of wealth." The great advantages to be derived from adopting a regular system in agriculture is, that each work would be distinct and separate, so that one could not interrupt or interfere with another. By due arrangement it is evident that labor can be so applied as not to be in the least degree wasted or lost by two or three going across each other, by doing what ought to be done in its regular time. Industry, with proper system, upon a farm of moderate size will secure for a farmer a livelihood. Every spot ought to be in demand for some crop. There is scarcely one farmer in five hundred that can estimate the loss sustained from a want of attention and carelessness in trifling matters, especially in what appertains to manure. The dung heap may be often seen placed in such a situation as if purposely fixed upon, merely for the sake of having all its juices and fertilizing qualities effectually washed away, and urine from cattle and horses utterly wasted and lost, by being suffered to run into some brook or creek, instead of there being a suitable place constructed to receive every drop of so valuable a manure, also the washings, &c., from the house are constantly thrown away into some sink or gutter, instead of being carefully added to the dung heap. These matters and the results, depending on them, either for profit or loss, are deserving of serious attention from every farmer, and demonstrate the great importance—indeed the absolute necessity of constructing all farm buildings, offices and conveniences, with a view to the comfort and cleanliness of the animals, and at the same time increase the quantity and quality of manure, as well by having proper receptacles adapted for the conversion into manure, of all the refuse, weeds, &c., that may be thrown into them. There is one thing always to be kept in mind, as of the utmost consequence with regard to manure, that is, to prevent, as far as possible, its being exposed to the effects of rain or water, excepting only the moisture that comes from the cattle, or the washings, &c., that may be thrown upon it from the house and out-buildings. There is nothing more detrimental to manure than for it to be left exposed to the effects of rain and

running water. Still, it should be as much as possible exposed to the action of the atmospheric air, which is the great and active agent in producing and increasing its fertilizing qualities, by generating saline particles. The strength of manure depends upon the quantity of the different salts and fertilizing properties contained in it. It requires great care in planning every farm building, to guard as far as possible against the effects of rain and water upon the dung heap. In a word no exertion should be spared to increase the quantity and improve the quality of manure. It is upon industry, economy, and due attention to the dung heap that the prosperity of the farmer mainly depends. With these, if he has health, and a sufficient allowance of intelligence to pursue a regular system in their application, and his farm tolerably well stocked, he cannot fail to pay his way, make a livelihood, and bring up a family.

A. FARMER.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

BREAKING OF COLTS.

Allow me through the medium of your highly valuable paper, to offer a few suggestions respecting the Breaking of colts. The great number of kicking, baulky and runaway horses throughout the country, makes it necessary that there should be some easy and safe manner of breaking colts whereby this may be prevented. The method which I have adopted, through an experience of many years, has never in a single instance, failed to furnish me with kind and tractable horses. I halter the colt as soon as weaned, and continue handling and leading it about, from time to time, as often as convenient, until it is two years old; I then put on the breaking gear, occasionally, never leaving them on longer than an hour at a time,—as it becomes painful to the colt. This gives your colt a graceful manner of carrying its head and neck, which adds materially to its appearance when in harness. In the fall, I put on the harness, in the stable probably once every two or three days, until it becomes thoroughly acquainted with the harness. I then put my colt by the side of some strong steady horse and drive them about without being hitched to anything, say half an hour. I then hitch them to the wagon and drive off five or six miles on the road. After this, I continue to drive my colt whenever I have business, when not necessitated to be loaded and by the time it is old enough for hard service, my colt is ready and willing to serve me. I make it a point never to lose my temper while breaking colts, it is productive of no good results to fly into a passion and whip a colt, because it don't act like an old horse, in fact, this is the principal reason for there being so many nervous and timid horses.

G. R. B.

Malveen, March 16th 1868.